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CARTER GETS MOVING shortly on the real transition decisions.

He'll probably announce on Monday the first choices for his personal White House staff. More important appointments may come later next week—perhaps the new budget director, Carter's national security assistant, one of the presidential economic advisers. But the first Cabinet selections are at least two weeks away.

Carter will confer with CIA Director Bush in Georgia, probably next week. He'll likely visit Washington this month to see Ford, perhaps budget chief Lynn as well. The incoming Democrats are determined to try to remold spending plans for the current fiscal year, as well as the budget Ford will submit in January. But Carter will carefully shun any public commitments before his takeover.

Carter transition planner Jack Watson has already visited FBI headquarters to arrange for checks on possible nominees.